News Briefs

DOD IT Standards Registry and DISRonline

The DOD Information Technology (IT) Standards Registry (DISR) provides a new process that program managers are directed to use to begin building technical views (TVs). DISR, the next generation of the Joint Technical Architecture (JTA), now mandates the minimum set of IT standards and guidelines for the acquisition of all DOD systems that produce, use or exchange information.

The DISR TV development tool is accessible through the Joint C4I [command, control, communications, computers and intelligence] Program Assessment Tool-Empowered (JCPAT-E) on the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET), which is part of the overarching Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) process. Here, system developers are able to build, store and share technical standards profiles. Access to this application requires a SIPRNET account and is available at **https://jcpat.ncr.disa.smil.mil**.

Army policy, now in the staffing process, retiring the JTA-Army and mandating compliance with the DISR is forthcoming. DISR use for developing TVs is ordered by *Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Instruction 6212.01C*, Nov. 20, 2003, from paragraph (5), "It is DOD policy that all IT and NSS (National Security Systems) and major modifications to existing IT and NSS will be compliant with the *Clinger-Cohen Act*, DOD interoperability regulations and policies, and the most current version of the DOD Information Technology Standards Registry (DISR)."

The DISRonline Nonclassified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET)-accessible is a Web-based application that provides configuration management support to the IT standards contained in the DISR. This online standards registry database is replicated on the SIPRNET and used to support the JCIDS. DISRonline NIPRNET is where change requests (CRs) are submitted and adjudicated, and pertinent information is posted. It is also where the DISR calendar is maintained, identifying time frames and meeting schedules for updating the DISR. Here, users can view and search the current registry as well as past JTA versions. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) is the DISR Executive Agent. Services and other DOD organizations participate through the structured oversight, management and working groups. Oversight of the Army's DISR role is provided by the Chief Information Office (CIO/G-6) Army Architecture Integration Cell (AAIC) Technical Architecture Division. To influence system development, Army organizations, including headquarters, major commands, subordinate commands and developers, are encouraged to actively participate in the DISR in coordination with CIO/G-6, by submitting CRs and manning the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) described below.

The DISR governance structure overarching guidance comes from the CIO Executive Board. The IT Standards Oversight Panel is tri-chaired by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/DOD CIO; and the Joint staff (J-6). The panel provides the direction and issue resolution to the IT Standards Committee (ITSC), which in turn adjudicates issues, sets priorities and promulgates IT standards programs. The four Mission Area Subcommittees — Business, DOD Intelligence, Enterprise Information Environment and Warfighting — each consist of several TWGs that are at the beginning of the standards adjudication process and perform any required related technical analysis.

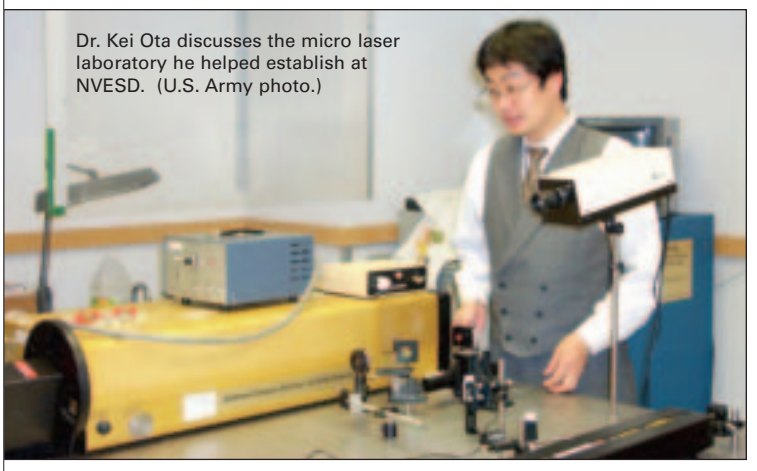
Any DISRonline account holder is able to submit a new standard or request that an existing standard be eliminated via the CR tool available on the DISRonline. The CRs will be reviewed and officially released by the associated service's or organization's recognized ITSC representative and are then assigned a working group to undergo the DISR adjudication process.

Potential DISR users have several training options. DISA is working with the services to provide training at various forums. A DISRonline demonstration compact disc may be provided upon request to the points of contact (POCs) given below. A DISRonline demonstration was given at the Association of the United States Army's October 2004 conference and the JCPAT-E Users conference co-hosted by DISA and the Joint staff in December 2004. Also, DISA frequently conducts DISRonline training in Falls Church, VA, which is made more widely available via video teleconference. In the near future, users will also have access to an unclassified self-training system that DISA is developing, which is expected to be available on the Web in FY05.

To find more information on DISR, request an account and keep abreast of IT standards management initiatives, go to **http://disronline.disa.mil**. More information on the Army's JTA-Army program and DISR implementation can be found on the AAIC portal/Technical Architecture Division/Technical Architecture Development and Implementation page at **https://aaic.army.mil/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=33&tabid=84** (AKO login required). AAIC POCs are John Shipp, Director, Technical Architecture Division at **john.shipp@us.army.mil**; Adele McCullough-Graham at **adele.mccullloughgraham@us.army.mil**; and Karyn Richardson at **karyn.richardson@us.army.mil**.

Exchange Unites Scientists From Around the World

There are many differences between the United States and Japan. However, the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate's (NVESD's) participation in the Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program (ESEP) is closing the gap between the two countries. ESEP allows scientists from foreign countries to work at laboratories in the United States, and vice versa, in an effort to foster the exchange of ideas and offer valuable learning experiences for all parties involved.



Dr. Kei Ota discusses the micro laser laboratory he helped establish at NVESD. (U.S. Army photo.)

Dr. Kei Ota, from Japan, recently participated in the program. In 2003, Ota began working at NVESD and fully immersed himself in life at the lab, working alongside Science and Technology Division members. In one year, Ota compiled an impressive list of achievements, including the measurement of laser parameters, set up of a micro laser research facility and the initiation of a new data exchange agreement between NVESD and the Technical Development and Research Institute, part of the Japanese Defense Agency.

At his farewell ceremony, Ota shared what he learned during his stay in the United States and presented his briefing on the characterization of lasers using the micro laser research facility. In his briefing, Ota compared himself to a chef preparing a recipe. The steps he took in creating the lab — the preliminary research, interviews of team members to find out their vision and goals for the facility and analyzing and using his available resources — were his ingredients. He put all of his collected information together to create the final product, the laboratory — much like a chef mixes together all the ingredients to make a culinary dish.

During his time at NVESD, Ota continually impressed his colleagues. Dr. Ward Trussell, who oversaw much of Ota's work for the laser team, said, "I was impressed by the quality and quantity of his efforts. He was very well organized. He did a comprehensive literature search and also absorbed the technical papers that we provided him before beginning his efforts." Fellow team member Glen Templeton was also impressed by Ota's productivity and drive. "Dr. Ota accomplished so much in such a short time, with all the obstacles that come with working in a foreign country," Templeton remarked. "His strong work ethic proved Ota was worthy of the title hanging outside of his office door: 'Distinguished Visiting Scientist.'"

Ota also made time to enjoy American culture outside of work. His wife and two young sons came to the United States with him, and they all learned to speak English fluently. "When they argue now, they argue in English!" Ota laughs. While in the United States, Ota learned to ski, an activity he very much enjoyed. He and his family were active in their community, joining neighbors for potluck dinners, to which they brought a taste of Japan. Ota also helped smooth the transition to American life for future visiting foreign scientists by preparing a notebook full of pertinent information about life in the United States, such as getting a drivers license, buying a car and finding a place to live.

Although Ota's time at NVESD has ended, his presence remains. His contributions to the lab continue to benefit the laser team as they develop and create new technologies and conduct micro laser research. Ota's visit further proved the benefits of ESEP and is an experience NVESD hopes to repeat with other scientists from abroad.

U.S. Army Materiel Command Merges Units in Europe

In step with the Army's transformation, Combat Equipment Group-Europe (CEG-E) and Army Materiel Command (AMC) Forward-Europe merged, forming AMC Field Support Brigade-Europe (FSB-E). The new unit mirrors its parent's (Army Field Support Command) mission and will deliver full-spectrum logistics power projection and support to forces in theater.

"By combining two AMC units that are experienced in supporting the warfighter, the Army gains a leaner organization, focused on delivering expertise and equipment to Soldiers throughout the European area of operations," said COL Max Lobeto, commander of the newly formed brigade.

AMC FSB-E's focus is to service units in the field. "Adopting a brigade structure aligns us with the Expeditionary Army units we support in Europe and beyond," Lobeto remarked. "AMC FSB-E provides an essential and enduring link from America's arsenal to units in the field."

More than 300 people form the brigade's core, with several hundred more host-nation service providers and contractors adding capabilities, including mechanical repairs and logistics assistance. "We have more than 1,600 people on the ground in Europe supporting U.S. Army Europe units to deliver logistics readiness power," Lobeto noted.

AMC FSB-E can reach back to commands in the United States "Our team includes representatives from AMC's major subordinate commands — such as the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command and the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command — enabling us to deliver expertise and equipment directly to Soldiers," Lobeto said.

GEN Benjamin S. Griffin, AMC Commander, delivers remarks during the AMC CEG-E/AMC Forward-Europe merge ceremony. (Photo by C.W. Fick Jr.)

Additionally, AMC FSB-E has pre-positioned equipment and repair capabilities. Field support battalions located in the Netherlands, Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom bring 20 years' experience in delivering combat-ready equipment to the battlefield. "Many of the tanks and trucks that the 3rd Infantry Division drove to victory in *Operation Iraqi Freedom* were delivered by CEG-E, which is now the field services arm of the new brigade," Lobeto commented.

Throughout the merge, the pace of operations has not slowed down. "Now that the 1st Armored Division (1AD) is back in Germany, our workforce is heavily in a RESET mission — rapidly repairing and returning equipment to the field. Our capabilities enable 1AD Soldiers to concentrate on training and getting back to full-operational readiness," Lobeto observed.

AMC FSB-E provides a means to deliver synchronized, integrated logistics power. "We're part of an Army at war and we are adapting to the mission. By merging capabilities into one command, we're providing combatant commanders with one-stop logistics services," Lobeto concluded.

AMC CEG-E Soldiers case the unit's colors during the merge ceremony, Nov. 18, 2004, in Seckenheim, Germany. (Photo by C.W. Fick Jr.)

2004 USD (AT&L) Workforce Development Award Recipients

Whitney F. Koeninger

As Acting Under Secretary of Defense (USD) for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (AT&L), Michael W. Wynne established seven goals for the AT&L Workforce. Accomplishing Goal 7 — Motivated, Agile Workforce, will lay the groundwork

for achieving the other six goals. In May 2004, Wynne created the AT&L Workforce Development Award Program to honor the achievements of field organizations that promote career-long learning and development in accordance with Goal 7. The program also identifies best practices used throughout the AT&L community that may be useful to other organizations.

The first annual USD AT&L Workforce Development Award Ceremony was held Nov. 16, 2004, at the Officer's Club, Fort Belvoir, VA. During the ceremony, Wynne explained that the award winners were chosen because of "their scope and innovation of the organizational approach, including mentoring, continuous learning, career counseling, job rotation and shadowing, executive coaching, leadership development and succession planning."

Three award categories were presented during the event. The U.S. Air Force's Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base, FL, was the Gold winner, while the U.S. Navy's Navy Facilities Engineering Command, Navy Yard, Washington, DC, was honored with the Silver award. The U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), Orlando, FL, took home the Bronze.

PEO STRI was chosen for its integrated approach to training and career development activities. The organization's initiatives include a Total Employee Development Program, Employee Development Plan, Leadership Education and Development Course and Creativity Day Camp. PEO STRI's efforts also include an aggressive internship program that offers valuable skills and training for future AT&L Workforce members.

PEO STRI representatives receive the Bronze AT&L Workforce Development Award. From left: Defense Acquisition University President Frank J. Anderson Jr.; Acting Under Secretary of Defense for AT&L Michael Wynne; Traci Jones, PEO STRI Project Support Executive; and Robert Reyenga, PEO STRI Business Operations Executive. (Photo by SGT Mason Lowery.)

Wynne ended the awards ceremony by thanking all applicants for the time and energy put into their submissions. He commented, "I have great confidence in the future of the AT&L community. Without a doubt, our people will have the right skills, in the right place, at the right time, with the right resources doing the right things — smartly supporting the warfighter."

Whitney F. Koeninger is the Manuscript Editor for Army AL&T Magazine.

NEWS BRIEFS

Kotchman Awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

COL Donald P. Kotchman, Deputy Program Executive Officer for Ground Combat Systems (PEO GCS) at the U.S Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, Warren, MI, was recently awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for 15 years of exceptional volunteer support. While serving in key U.S. Army Acquisition Corps leadership positions, Kotchman dedicated his personal time to Boy Scout activities, youth sports programs and chapel activities. He demonstrates significant concern for quality family life and sets a strong example for others.

COL Donald P. Kotchman, recent recipient of the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, greets President George W. Bush as he arrives in Clinton Township, MI.

As a Scoutmaster and Boy Scout Committee Chair, Kotchman has helped more than 20 of his troop members become Eagle Scouts and has created more than 30 community enrichment projects. Kotchman's involvement as a youth sports coach provides a wholesome and physically challenging outlet for military children. His participation in chapel activities helps enrich worship services for church members. Overall, Kotchman's volunteer efforts have provided a balance of intellectual, athletic and spiritual activities for military families.

In 1979, Kotchman graduated from the U.S. Military Academy with a B.S. in applied science and engineering, and was commissioned in the Ordnance Corps. As Deputy PEO GCS, Kotchman oversees a variety of Army fighting equipment, including the Abrams tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle, Stryker family of vehicles, robotics systems and artillery systems.

ALTESS News

The Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services (ALTESS) Product Management Office, the acquisition domain's gatekeeper, remains vigilant and ready to implement the latest business and technological improvements to equip our users with tools to better manage their programs and responsibilities. This article updates you on the latest ALTESS developments and informs you of upcoming workshops, hands-on training events, conferences, symposiums, ALTESS history, recent architecture efforts and ALTESS' role in acquisition workforce training. It is an honor to be able to address the community in this respected publication, and we look forward to bringing you much more news and information on relevant issues facing today's acquisition community in the near future.

ALTESS History

ALTESS was originally established as the Ordnance Industrial Data Agency (OIDA). Our mission was to collect and process ordnance industrial capability data for more effective management of national ordnance procurement and production programs.

The Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (DCSLOG) renamed OIDA the Data Processing Center (DDPC) in 1962. Assigned to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition (DCSRDA) in 1974, the DDPC was renamed the U.S. Army Research, Development and Acquisition Information Systems Agency (RDAISA). In 1978, RDAISA became a U.S. Army Computer Systems Command field operating agency, transferring to the U.S. Army Information Systems Command from 1985 until 1993, then to HQDA.

When HQDA reorganized in 1987, RDAISA was assigned to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASARDA). In 1999, ASARDA was redesignated as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT). Under both ASARDA and ASAALT, RDAISA remained under the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Plans, Programs and Resources. Redesignation of RDAISA as Product Manager (PM) ALTESS under PEO Enterprise Information Services (PEO EIS), formerly known as Standard Army Management Information Systems, was initiated by the Army reorganization in October 2001.

During the 44 years that this organization has provided automation support for the Army's materiel acquisition and budget preparation mission, enormous advances have occurred in information technology (IT). Throughout dramatic changes in the IT world, ALTESS has been an information management leader. ALTESS has kept pace with the dynamic nature of technological innovation by evolving from a first-generation, batch-oriented mainframe operation to a network-centric, knowledge-based, collaborative environment.

Since 1987, ALTESS has supported the Army Acquisition Executive (AAE) and his staff. Today, our mission has evolved to support the Army acquisition domain. We are responsible for supporting the AAE, his staff, PEO and program/project/product managers. ALTESS provides various products and services to the acquisition community including acquisition information management, Probability for Success Web, Army, RDA, Update Computer System (WARBUCS), procurement and research, development, test and evaluation forms, Acquisition Career Record Briefs, Individual Development Plans (IDPs) and Chief Information Officer Assessments. ALTESS is the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) temporary duty coordinator and hosts PEO Ammunition and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM).

Army Acquisition Business Enterprise Architecture (AABEA)

The Army can achieve substantially higher acquisition cost savings in IT by following the industry's lead in developing the enterprise architecture (EA) for Army acquisition. Commercial companies' lessons learned provide invaluable insight to EA's implementation into business processes. Acquisition business processes should include streamlined and seamless business practices. To achieve higher cost savings, the Army must reengineer business processes within its organizational structures (acquisition domains). This shift will require a focus change from individualized business functions to a top-down approach. Within the Army acquisition domain, each PEO has made significant IT investments to ensure that the systems produced provide force superiority through technical advantage. Also, HQDA has invested in comprehensive oversight functions and capabilities to ensure the systems developed are managed and produced efficiently. However, there are inconsistent and convoluted business processes that